CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A tailored, classified file attachment screen provided to a user by a server connected to a network wherein the tailored, classified file attachment screen is associated with a step in a workflow route such that the classification of the file to be attached and the configuration of the file attachment means for the tailored, classified file attachment screen are provided by the workflow step and, using the file attachment means, the user can attach a file that is then sent with the classification information to the server.

2. The tailored, classified file attachment screen of claim 1 wherein the screen is a Web page and the server is a Web server.

3. The tailored, classified file attachment screen of claim 1 wherein the file attachment means can attach files with a parent-child relationship.

4. The tailored, classified file attachment screen claim 1 wherein the file classification includes a meta-name and an iteration indicator.

5. A tailored, classified file download screen provided to a user by a server connected to a network wherein the tailored, classified file download screen is associated with a step in a workflow route such that the classification of the file to be downloaded and the configuration of the file download means for the tailored, classified file download screen are provided by the workflow step, enabling the user to download the file from the server.

6. The tailored, classified file download screen of claim 5 wherein the screen is a Web page and the server is a Web server.

7. The tailored, classified file download screen of claim 5 wherein the download means can download files with a parent-child relationship.

8. The tailored, classified file download screen of claim 5 wherein the user can use the file classification to select files for downloading.

9. The tailored, classified file download screen of claim 5 associated with a workflow route step with a conditional branch wherein the user can indicate the branch choice and send the choice to the server.

10. A file based workflow system connected to a network wherein the file based workflow system contains a classification table and a route, a sequence of steps, and for a step requiring a file attachment, the step is associated with a tailored, classified file attachment screen and for a step requiring a file download, the step is associated with a tailored, classified file download screen.

11. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the file classification is related to a file sever name using the classification table.

12. The file based workflow system of claim 10 and a file server wherein an attached file from a user of a tailored, classified file attachment screen is received; assigned a file name; the file name, the file given name and classification information are entered into the classification table; and the file is stored in the file server using the file name.

13. The file based workflow system of claim 10 and a file server wherein a file to be downloaded by a user of a tailored, classified file download screen is retrieved by using the file classification information from the associated step and the classification table to derive the file name and the file name is used to retrieve the file from the file sever so that it may be sent to the user when requested for downloading using the tailored, classified file download screen.

14. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the classification table represents the parent-child relationship of a file to another file.

15. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein a step in the route with a conditional branch is associated with a tailored, classified file download screen and the user indicated choice is received and the choice is applied to the step with a conditional branch.

16. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the iteration field in the classification table is used to relate the files used in an iteration of a route with an iterative loop and to distinguish these files from files used in other iterations.

17. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the iteration field in the classification table is used to relate a file generated by a process with the input files used by the process.

18. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the iteration field in the classification table is used to relate the files used in an instance of a route and to distinguish these files from files used in other instances of the route.

19. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the route forks into two parallel sub-routes consisting of a first sub-route with a step to download a first file and a second sub-route with a step to download a second file.

20. The file based workflow system of claim 10 wherein the meta-name field in the classification table is used to relate the files with similar functional content for selection for downloading from the file server.